

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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R 161059Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1631

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SOMALIA JOINES ARAB LEAGUE

1. NEWS OF SOMALIA'S FEBRUARY 14 ACCESSION TO ARAB LEAGUE HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN CARRIED BY OFFICIAL SOMALIA PRESS OR RADIO. THERE IS BRIEF MENTION IN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY HORSEED OF FEBRUARY 15, AND MANY SOMALIS HAVE HEARD NEWS ON FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS. MOVE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN WIDELY WELCOMED, ESPECIALLY BY THOSE (PARTICULARLY NUMEROUS IN NORTH) WHO PUT GREAT STORE IN SOMALIA'S ARABIC HERITAGE; BY THOSE WHO FEEL LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP WILL RESTRAIN ECONOMICALLY PAINFUL "SOCIALIST" MEASURES; AND BY MORE RELIGIOUS SECTORS OF POPULATION.

2. THERE ARE MANY RUMORS AROUND TOWN TO EFFECT THAT SOMALI
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ACCESSION TO LEAGUE WAS OPPOSED BY HIGHER EDUCATION SECRETARY

MOHAMED ADEN AND FINANCE SECRETARY WEIRAH, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE REPUTATION OF DEDICATION TO COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY AND SOVIET TIES. SOME SAY THESE MEN SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS OVER THE QUESTION BUT THAT THIS WAS REFUSED BY PRESIDENT SIAD. WE BELIEVE QUESTION OF JOINING ARAB LEAGUE MAY HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN UULINGV GROUP, DECISION TO APPLY PRESUMABLY MADE BEFORE SIAD'S EARLY JANUARY TRIP TO GULF STATES. PRINCIPAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RUMORS AT THIS STAGE IS PROBABLY EXTENT TO WHICH THEY REFLECT COFFEE HOUSE CONVICTION THAT SOMALI ACCESSION TO ARAB LEAGUE IS MOVE SOVIETS AND THEIR SOMALI SUPPORTERS WOULD NOT RPT NOT LIKE.

3. WEEKS SINCE PRESIDENT SIAD'S DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 19 TRIP TO GULF STATES HAVE BEEN MARKED BY FLOW OF DELEGATIONS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MANY WITH AN ECONOMIC CAST (KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, LIBYA AND IRAQ, AMONG OTHERS). NO SPECIFIC RESULTS HAVE AS YET BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT SOME AID WILL BE FORTHCOMING, THOUGH DOUBTLESS NOT RPT NOT AS MUCH AS SOMALIS WOULD LIKE.

4. OUR ASSESSMENT OF MOTIVATION FOR SOMALI RAPPROACHMENT WITH ARABS AND ACCESSION TO ARAB LEAGUE REMAINS BASICALLY AS OUTLINED MOGADISCIO 123 (JANUARY 28, 1974): DESIRE FOR BETTER CLAIM ON ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PROSPECT OF COMMERCIAL PRIVILEGES WHICH WILL FACILITATE EXPANSION OF SOMALI EXPGRTS; AND DESIRE DISCOURAGE INCREASED ARAB SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA IN WAKE LATTER'S DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH ISRAEL. SOMALIS MAY ALSO BE MOTIVATED IN PART BY DESIRE TO ASSURE SUPPLY OF OIL. WE UNDERSTAND SOVIETS (WHO FURNISH SOMALIA WITH OIL FROM IRAQI FIELDS) HAD ASSURED GSDR THREE MONTHS AGO THAT QUANTITY OF OIL SUPPLY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE REDUCED, ALBEIT PRICE TO SOMALIS WAS RAISED. SOVIETS HAVE REPORTEDLY MANAGED OIL FLOW TO KEEP SOMALI MILITARY POL STOCKS LOW. (PRESIDENT SIAD HAS EVEN MENTIONED THIS TO US AS ONE REASON WHY SOMALI CANNOT LAUNCH ATTACK ON ETHIOPIA.) TO EXTENT THAT SOMALIA'S CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH ARABS RESULTS IN INDEPENDENT ACCESS TO SUPPLY OF POL (THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF BUILDING REFINERY HERE WITH ARAB HELP) AND ENABLES GSDR TO BUILD UP STOCK WHICH COULD BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, ONE RESTRAINT ON SOMALI MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE REMOVED.

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5. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AS INDICATED MOGADISCIO 123, THAT CLOSER SOMALI RTWWKIONS WITH ARABS SHOULD HELP URGE GSDR TOWARD REDUCED EMPHASIS ON SOVIET TIES, LESS RADICAL SOCIALIST POLICIES WITHIN SOMALIA AND MORE BALANCED STAND ON WORLD AFFAIRS. WE WOULD IMAGINE THAT PREPONDERANCE OF ADVICE FROM SOMALIA'S ARAB FRIENDS WOULD BE AGAINST LAUNCHING AN ATTACK ON ETHIOPIA AOT ELSEFEEL THAT SOMALIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN ARAB LEAGUE, LIKE ITS

PRESUMED UPCOMING CHAIRMANSHIP OF OAU FOLLOWING JUNE SUMMIT IN
MOGADISCIO, WILL INHIBIT RATHER THAN ENCOURAGE SOMALI MILITARY
ADVENTURISM.
KIRK

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NNN

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